



EXHIBIT 2
DATE 3-27-07
SB 491

TO: Representative Mendenhall and Members of the House Business Committee

FROM: Del Lonnquist, Volunteer Advocate, AARP Montana

RE: Support of SB 491, Revise Housing Laws

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the record my name is Del Lonnquist, volunteer advocate for AARP Montana. AARP is a non-profit, non-partisan membership organization with over 154,000 members in Montana.

We support SB 491 to create the Housing Montana Fund. Many times this session we have mentioned that Montana is aging. Over the next two decades, Montana's population over age 65 will be growing much faster than the total population. This demographic shift will change the housing needs in the state.

AARP advocates programs that allow Montanans to age in place. However, we know that many seniors will not be able to age in their homes either due to their financial or physical limitations. In many rural communities, affordable rental housing designed for seniors is not available.

SB 491 allows the state to be flexible and address various housing needs in Montana. We urge your support of SB 491.